

Faction Unmask'd,

WITH

REMARKS;

As Publish'd in the Year 1737.

To which is annex'd,

A SHORT but TRUE

NARRATIVE

Of several Circumstances relating to the

Late ELECTION

Of MEMBERS of PARLIAMENT, for the BOROUGH
OF

LEICESTER,

In the Year M.DCC.LIV.

WITH

OBSERVATIONS.

*Aude aliquid brevibus gyaris, & carcere dignum sibi esse
aliquis.* JUVEN.

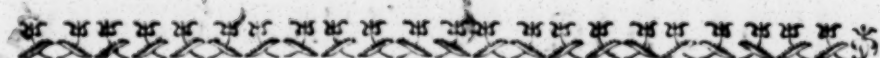
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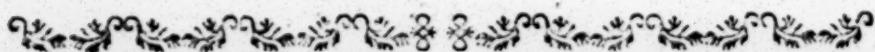
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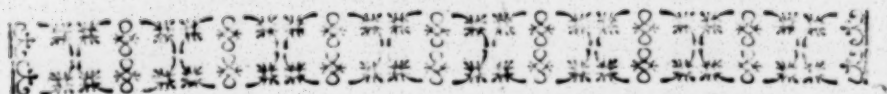
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To the R E A D E R.

TH E Corporation of *Leicester* having been grossly abused in several News-Papers, of late, and Matters of Fact most shamefully and maliciously misrepresented, in Relation to the treasonable Papers which were there posted up; the *Members* of that *Corporation* cannot but think it proper to lay before the Publick, 'in one View, the *Accounts* their *Enemies* have given of them, as well as what has been published by themselves, together with some *Remarks* upon the Whole, whereby the candid and ingenuous READER will be better able to judge whether they deserve those *Aspersions*, which a Set of Men, (whom they think they have Reason to stile a *Faction*, and who they doubt not, from the following Observations will appear to be such) have endeavour'd to throw upon them.





Faction unmask'd, &c.

St. James's Evening Post, Feb. 11. 1737-8.

LEICESTER, Feb. 11.

WHEREAS it is represented in the London Evening-Post, of the 7th Instant, that a *Person who had some of the treasonable Papers*, which were publish'd lately in this Town, being carried before the Mayor, on close Examination was so greatly terrified that he dropp'd down dead; insinuating hereby that this Person was the Publisher of those treasonable Papers. This Representation is utterly false, and we are assured on the contrary, that the Person mentioned to be dead was well affected to the present Government, and having some of the treasonable Papers brought to him, by those who found them posted and dispersed in several Parts of the Town, immediately delivered them to some Friends of the Government, who sent them by a Messenger to be laid before the Secretaries of State. The Magistrates hearing of this, were uneasy, and thought it prudent for ye ~~magistrates~~ to send another Messenger with some of the Papers, which came to their Hands; but this was not done till many Hours after the Papers were known to have been publish'd, and a great Noise made in the Town about them; so that their Messenger

came several Hours after the other, who was sent by the Friends of the Government. The Person who dropped down dead, having been some time ill before, died of an Apoplectick Fit, as was supposed, whilst he was talking with the Magistrates, who desired him to tell them what he knew about the said Papers, and was going to sit down with them when he died. His Innocency has been cleared by several Affidavits; and the Person who accused him after his death, appears by Affidavit to have charged him falsely. It is therefore greatly hoped that the Authors and Publishers of those treasonable Papers will be found out, if his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of LEICESTER be empowered to take Examinations in the Borough, whereof several have been charged by Affidavit, on this Occasion, before his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County, with drinking the Pretender's Health on the 10th of June, by the Name of King JAMES the III; and there is no doubt but the real Authors of the treasonable Papers, will, whenever found out, appear to be such as these. But it is a sure Way never to have the Authors of the treasonable Papers discovered, when none are called to be examined about them, but the known friends of the Government.

To the Author of the *Whitehall Evening-Post*.

Leicester, Feb. 15, 1737

THAT you and the Publick may no longer be imposed upon, by false and scandalous

dalous Insinuations, concerning the Authors of the treasonable Papers lately published in this Borough. I have now to inform you, that in pursuance of the threatening therein mentioned, one of the Corporation, who is charged by Affidavit before two of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace, with having on the 10th of June drank the Pretender's Health upon his Knees, under the Name of King James the III. On Thursday the 9th of this Instant rais'd a great Mob with Sound of Trumpet and French Horn, who march'd in a riotous Manner all over the Town, and after breaking several Windows and Pails of Houses, they openly and scandalously insulted the Friends of the Government, and in the Evening sacrificed, as the treasonable Papers set forth, and burnt in Effigy two Gentlemen of Character and known Affection and Zeal for the present Government.

This is a Preliminary to what is threatned by the Jacobites to be done on the 10th of June next, and hence it plainly appears from what Quarter the treasonable Papers above-mentioned proceed, notwithstanding which, the Jacobites have had the Assurance to shift it off from themselves, and lay them upon the Friends of the Government.

The *Magistrates* Account, as deliver'd to the *Printer* of the London Evening-Post.

A false, scandalous, and malicious Account of the Proceedings of the Magistrates of the Borough

rough of LEICESTER, in their Enquiry after the Authors of some treasonable Papers lately dispers'd in that Town, having been publish'd in several News-Papers by Persons of evil Design; the Magistrates in order to vindicate themselves, and disabuse the Publick, have thought proper to give an attested Relation of the Matter of Fact, as it appeared to them from Informations taken upon Oath, and other sufficient Evidence, as follows.

ON Wednesday Morning the first of February last were found posted up in different Parts of the Town, several treasonable and seditious Papers, all to the same Purport, two of which came by Accident, to the Mayor's Hands about 9 o'Clock; who immediately summon'd the other Justices of the Peace for the said Borough, and offer'd a Reward of 100l. by the Mace-Bearer and common Cryer, to any Person who shall discover the Author or Putters up of the said Papers.

The Justices then proceeded to make proper Enquiries, by sending for and examining all Persons whom they were inform'd had Copies of the said Papers, which appeared to have been handed about from one to another, by those Persons who would be thought the Friends of the Government, with that Diligence and Industry, that before the Mayor had Notice of them, the said Copies had been dispers'd into all parts of the Town, which being still traced to the Originals from whence they were taken,

it

it appeared upon Examination, that one *Grew*, who was afterwards charged with saying his Man had one of them at 10 o'Clock the Night before; and one *Garle*, who had one from Mrs. *Jackson*, and another which he said was found put into his Window, delivered them to Mr. *Norton*, and Mr. *Norton* without taking Notice of the Proceedings of the Justices, sent them away to LONDON by a special Messenger, some time after the aforesaid Reward was publicly offered; and the said Messenger being on his Return to LEICESTER examin'd upon Oath, declar'd, that he heard the Reward of 100*l.* published by Order of the Mayor and Justices two Hours before he set forwards with two Letters, which were directed, and he delivered to Mr. *Jackson*, the Master of *Wigston's* Hospital, who was then in LONDON; And it further appears, that for the greater Expedition of this Messenger, the Turnpike was set open, and he was not hinder'd so little time as to pay for his Passage.

The Mayor and Justices having spent some Hours with the greatest Application in taking Informations, dispatch'd them with an Account of what Steps they had taken, and the Progress they had made, to his Majesty's Principal Secretary of State.

The Justices continued their Enquiry, and taking into Consideration the uncommon Proceeding of Mr. *Norton*, in the Evening sent for him, and not suspecting him to be concern'd
in

in putting up the said Papers, who when he came before them, was to all appearance in perfect Health, but in very great confusion, and being ask'd what he had done with the Papers which were delivered to him, at first disputed the Authority of the Justices, and deny'd his having any of them; but on his seeing the Affidavit made by *Grew*, he changed Countenance, and then own'd he had that Paper, and said that He and *Garle* had sent three of them to the Secretary of State; but before his Examination was finish'd he dropp'd down, and expir'd immediately. The next Day it appear'd, the said Mr. *Norton* was seen in the Market-Place with a Candle and dark Lanthorn, and some Papers in his Hands, about Twelve or One o'Clock the very Night the treasonable Papers were stuck up, with other suspicious Circumstances of Guilt.

WILLIAM LEE, *Mayor*:
 RICHARD GOODALL.
 SAMUEL SIMPSON.

We shall leave the READER to his own Observations upon the preceeding Accounts, and shall only beg leave, previous to our Remarks, to observe, that tho' the sitting Member was return'd at the last ELECTION by a Majority of 330, yet a Petition was carrying on, Agents employ'd, Contributions rais'd, Charters examin'd, and many other Steps taken to maintain it.

REMARKS.

R E M A R K S.

1. ACCORDING to what was given out, the Petition was to have been presented by the Faction, which had nothing but Impudence to support it, against the sitting Member, that very Day these treasonable Papers were found posted up. We submit to the Reader, whether this does not seem to have a View to the intended Petition, here is plainly an End to be served; whereas we are at a loss to find what End any other Party could have in view, except any one will assert, that to give the Government four Months Notice of an intended Insurrection, be the most likely way to succeed in the Execution of it.

2. The Papers were all of them posted up against the Doors of those who were of that Party, and in such manner, as if it was design'd by the Faction, they should fall into their hands only, and be kept a Secret from the Magistrates.

3. What strengthens this Supposition is, that those Papers which fell into their Hands, though they industriously copy'd and dispers'd them among those of their own Party, were secreted from the Magistrate, and sent up to London.

4. Some of these Papers accidentally fell into the Mayor's Hands about 9 o'Clock in the Morning, who, with all convenient Speed call'd the Justices together, and publish'd a Reward of 100l. for the Discovery of the Authors, &c. (which our Enemies, in their Accounts, have never yet had the Ingenuity to own) upon which (though before there was a sensible Joy in the Countenances of the Faction, who thought their Scheme had taken effect, there was a sudden Change, their Countenances fell, and they were in a great Hurry running about the Town, they themselves best know whether to detect the Traitors or conceal them.

5. Though the Mayor had publicly offered a Reward of 100l. for the Discovery of the Author, &c. had con-

ven'd the Justices, and was taking Depositions with all Diligence, yet they, pursuant to the Scheme they had before laid down, sent away their Messenger two Hours after the Reward was offer'd, and some Depositions were taken; and this was done, not with a Design to inform the Government that the Mayor was doing his Duty.

6. If they did not do this, as we verily believe they will not so much as pretend they did, where was their Ingenuity and Moderation? If they did, to what Purpose was their Messenger sent? Since they could not but be sensible, that the Mayor and the Justices design'd to send to the Secretary of State, as soon as they finish'd the Depositions which were then before them.

7. We are at a loss to find for what End this Messenger should be sent; had all the treasonable Papers fallen into their Hands, and by them been sent to London, as seems plainly to have been design'd, they might have represented the Magistrates as deficient in their Duty, and successfully have charged that upon their Negligence, which would have been owing only to their Ignorance; But when they evidently saw, that this Scheme was broke, and the Magistrates were no way remiss in their Duty, that they should still send away their Messenger in such haste, that he could not stop to pay his Toll at the Turnpike, should support himself with Lies upon the Road, in order to forward his own Dispatch, and hinder that of the Mayor's; is in our Judgment so extraordinary a Strain of political Candor and Ingenuity, as is not every Day to be met with, and shews so prone an Inclination to Mischief and Misrepresentation, though but for a few Hours continuance, and that, at the lasting Expence of their own Reputation, as we imagine, can come under no Denomination, but that of Infatuation without a Figure.

8. It is true, the Informations laid before the Mayor chiefly center'd in the Faction, (though they were generally extorted, few or none voluntarily offer'd) which we apprehend was solely owing to their Diligence and Application in copying and dispersing the said treasonable Papers, and not

to any Partiality in the Magistrates, they dare not so much as pretend the Magistrates ever rejected any Informations. If they have Informations against the other Party to offer, it is no way consistent with that Zeal and Loyalty they pretend to the Government to suppress them. If they have not, we leave it to the World to judge who were best acquainted with the Treason, and most fond of it.

9. *Mr. Norton (the Solicitor of the Faction in relation to the Petition) was in good Health the Day preceeding his Death, dined heartily upon Scotch Collups; and was with some Friends smoaking his Pipe when the Magistrates sent for him, about six o'Clock in the Evening. He seem'd in Confusion, and changed Colour upon his Examination; and whatever might be the Cause of his Death, he was never known to have had a Fit of an Apoplexy, as has been falsely pretended.*

10. If Depositions taken upon Oath be true, he had reason to be in concern. One Deponent swears he saw him about Twelve or One o'Clock that Night the Papers were stuck up in the Market-Place, with a dark Lanthorn, and some Papers in his Hand. Another, that five days before the Treason was publish'd, discoursing with Mr. Norton about the intended Petition, the said Mr. Norton, said, *something will go against Mr. WIGLEY, which you will soon hear of.*

11. The Friends of Mr. Norton, who have given it under their hands to the Publick, that they are well assured of his Innocence, would do well in satisfaction to the Publick, in regard to his and their own reputations, to invalidate these Evidences; otherwise, tho' we are no way inclined to trample upon the Ashes of the Dead, we must leave it to the World, whether their bare Assertions will screen his Memory from so full a Charge.

Whoever considers the Education of Mr. Norton, his skill and address in his Profession, his steady adherence to the Party, his diligence and application in every thing wherein he was employ'd by them, especially his late exact Scrutiny into the Charters of the Corporation, will not be surpriz'd they should place the greatest confidence in a Person so well qualified to serve them; and whose chief Views and Prof-

pects in Life, gave them no room to doubt his readiness and Inclination to serve them at all Hazards.

This is not the first time Mr. Norton had been before the Magistrates, he had frequently appear'd before them; he was not wont to be under any concern on such occasions; but had treated them with great Freedom. What then could be the reason of this sudden Change? He who was accustomed to deal so freely with them, now trembles, and cannot face them before he has drank two Glasses of Brandy; great Changes seldom happens without weighty Causes. Truth and Innocence are rarely attended with Confusion and Concern, and therefore we leave it to the Friends of Mr. Norton, whether they will impute it to his Innocence or his Guilt.

12. Another of the Faction has been charged with having one of the treasonable Papers at Ten o'Clock the same Night they were publish'd, the charge is full against him, and it is incumbent on the Person accused, if he can, to disprove it.

Another informs us, he found one them put into his Window, these were not so much as pretended to have been posted up as the rest were. How they came to be thus distinguish'd, we cannot account for, and whether they will interpret it as a Favour, or a Disgrace, they themselves best know. By this it appears that two of the original Papers which Mr. Norton sent away, were not posted up, and the third is accounted for by the Magistrates Paper. Let them produce an instance if they are able, where any of those, who, as they have insinuated to the publick, were the Authors of the said Treason, have been so nearly charged with it. We call upon them in this Case to exert ther known Zeal and Loyalty, as we expect no Favour at their Hands, so neither do we want, or desire any.

13. Now what do these known Friends to the Government offer in Vindication of themselves? Why truly they have acquainted the Publick, that several of the Borough have drank the Pretender's Health, be it so, but when was this pretended to be done? Why in June 1736. If they knew this to be part of the present Plot, Why did not their
Zeal

Zeal prompt them to discover it before? since upon this Supposition they must have been acquainted with it this Year and half. If it be not? to what Purpose is the Time suppress'd? honestly no doubt, lest the Publick by mistake, should take that to be done just now, which was transacted so long since.

14. This Information was not laid before the Mayor, who was the proper Officer, it being done (as is pretended) in the Borough; but before the Justices of the Peace for the County: But the misfortune of it is, that two of the Persons accused, can prove themselves to be many Miles distant at the time the Fact is pretended to be sworn against them. Now if they have so useful an Affidavit, why was it not prosecuted? If they have not, to what Purpose do they pretend they have?

15. We confess, we do not understand what the Author of the Paragraph in the St. James's Evening Post of Feb. 11 means, when he insinuates, *that if the Country Justices were but impowred to take Examinations in the Borough, the Treason would soon be discovered.* Surely he does not mean, that they want a Commission to do that, which they have already done. And we shall be obliged to that Author, or any of his Friends, if they would acquaint the Publick, when the Magistrates refused any Informations they offered to lay before them. If they can produce no such Instance, as we are certain they cannot, why do they slander the Magistrates and abuse the Publick; if there be any Partiality, let the world judge from what Quarter it comes.

16. Have the Magistrates been deficient in Diligence and Impartiality? If they have, let their Enemies publish it. Have they not made all possible Enquiries? They themselves know from whom they were generally extorted. Have they endeavour'd to stifle the King's Evidence? They themselves best know who have. And we are apt to think the world will believe, that if the Magistrates knowledge had been as extensive as theirs, the Authors of the Treason would have been long discovered before this,

17. As

17. As the Author of the *Whitehall Evening Post* has his Account by hearsay, and was not at *Leicester* to see what happened; we shall endeavour to set him right in that Affair. Three or four Persons having sat up till about two o'Clock on Thursday Morning the 9th of February, when the News came that the Petition was dropt, did with a French Horn, &c. serenade some of the greatest Sticklers for it, wishing them Joy of their Petition; but this they did without any breaking of windows, as is falsely suggested,

In the Morning a window and a few Pales of a Gentleman, (who was generally look'd upon as the chief Promoter of the Opposition in the late Election, as well as of the intended Petition) were broke, by some Persons whose heat and joy transported them beyond the Bounds of their Discretion and Duty; but this Mob was by no means general, as seems to be insinuated, and before Noon entirely vanish'd. And tho' we do not in any wise justify their Conduct, yet we believe there never was less Disturbance in this, or any other Place, (as has been acknowledg'd by several of the Party) upon the like glaring Provocation, a Provocation that seemingly aim'd at nothing less, than the total subversion of the Corporation and Peace of the Borough; and notwithstanding it has been represented to the Publick in so formidable a Light, yet the Damage was so inconsiderable, that the Person aggrieved did not think fit to complain to the Magistrate upon that occasion.

18. In the Evening of the same Day there was a Bonfire made by some Boys near the Crane-Inn, and one of them, when the Fire was almost out, ran into a neighbouring Yard, and bringing with him a naked Log of Wood, (without so much as a Band to distinguish it from any other Log) held it up, and saying this is *Y-----n*, flung it into the Fire. We were not apprehensive this was burning a Person in Effigie, till the News Papers inform'd us of it. Now we do freely own, that tho' we do not think, we have any reason to entertain so high an Esteem for the Moderation, Candor, Integrity, and Orthodoxy of that reverend Gentleman as some others may,

yet among all his shining, amiable, and social Qualities, we never before apprehended he was so much like a Log till his Friends told us so. *Sed, ex quovis ligno fiat Mercurius.*

This is not the only time this Corporation has been by the Faction attacked in the same vile and malicious Manners they know it, they cannot, they dare not deny it. But as this Corporation in this Case, as well as all others, preserv'd its Affection and Loyalty unshaken to his Majesty, the Government, and Succession establish'd in his illustrious House ; we trust in God, that all future, (as well as former Designs) however darkly or wickedly contriv'd by our Enemies, will prove abortive. And that no little, mean, low, and scandalous Attempts of an inconsiderable Faction, no ill Treatment, no Provocation whatsoever, shall ever prompt us to express the least Disrespect to his Majesty, or his Government ; much less to break out into Rebellion, and open Insults against it. We hope these Gentlemen will not take it amiss, if pursuant to these Professions, to which our Actions have always been conformable, we stile ourselves the true, though perhaps they will not allow us, to write ourselves the known Friends of the Government. And though upon this Occasion, they have been pleas'd out of their great Moderation to call us JACOBITES, from our Actions let the Word judge, to which Side that Character most properly belongs.

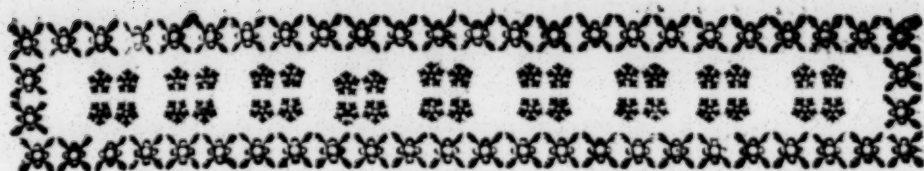
Now, if after what has been said, the Faction can charge the presumption of Guilt upon us, with the same Truth and Reason we have done it upon them, we call upon, we advise, we exhort them to do it : If they cannot, they ought to beg Pardon of the Publick for so shamefully imposing upon them ; but let them remember, that an impotent or false Defence is worse than none ; and though perhaps some of their Partizans may think political Lying necessary, and that *Calumny is no Slander*, they must pardon us, if we, who have Reputation to lose think otherwise. If they do not approve of this, they must consider it is a dish of their own cooking, and if Persons by fondly raking into the Dirt, chance to fall upon the Stench, who can help it ?

We

We should not have given the Publick this Trouble, had not the falshood and malice of our Enemies forced us to this necessary vindication of ourselves, and we declare to the World, that in this we are far from designing to cast any reflection upon the Party in general, we know that an Unity in Sentiments, is as little to be expected in every case, as a Similitude of Features. We blame no Man for pursuing what he thinks right in a fair and honourable Way, every Man has his Priviledge, it is his Birth-right, the Fruit of his Liberty, he ought to enjoy it. We openly acknowledge there are many Gentlemen of that Party among us, who are Men of Worth and Honour, for whom we have a great Esteem; and who though applied to, by the most pressing Instances, would have no hand in carrying on the intended Petition. We likewise think it our Duty, in this publick Manner, to acquit the worthy Candidate, who is a Gentleman of known Candor and good Nature. And tho' through the restless Importunities of the Faction, he was prevail'd upon, in some degree, to countenance their Measures; yet he was so well satisfied with our Conduct at the late Election, that (to his Honour be it spoken) he never could be induced to sign their Petition. But it is the black, the wicked Designs, of a restless, disappointed, exploded Faction, against which, we have reason to express a just resentment; a Faction, who sooner than mis of their dark and malicious Views, would affront his Majesty, insult the Government, publish Treason, charge it upon the Innocent, lye to the Publick, support one by a hundred others, honestly represent what was transacted almost two Years ago, as done just now: Such Actions we cannot but detest, such Persons we own we condemn, as we doubt not all honest Men will. Are they offended at this Picture? let them know, that we leave it to the Judgment of every impartial Reader, whether it is not the naked, the unadorned Representation of their own dark Contrivances; if they like it not, let them endeavour to mend it.

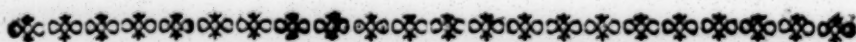
Flectere si nequeant superos, acheronta movebunt.

Virg.



A SHORT but TRUE

NARRATIVE, &c.



LEICESTER, Jan. 31, 1755.

AS the anniversary time approaches, when those treasonable papers before mention'd, were so wickedly publish'd, and the present Circumstances of Affairs at Leicester, are, or may in the sequel appear, nearly similar to those in the Year 1737; and several of the Persons then hurried forwards by their Malice and Ambition, to contrive and perpetrate such scenes of Iniquity, to compass their vile Designs, as every honest Man trembled at the thoughts of, are now in Being, and lately have shamelessly reiterated the same base Practices, they so maliciously, and by disingenuous and detestable Artifices, eighteen Years ago made use of; and which brought upon them that load of Guilt and Infamy, of which, to this Day, they have never been able to disburthen themselves; the following short but true Narrative is offer'd to the Publick.

* * The two following Advertisements were inserted in the LEICESTER-JOURNAL Jan. 25, 1755.

' WHEREAS a set of People remarkable for their TYRANNY,
' DISLOYALTY and BASENESS, finding themselves likely to be
C brought

' brought to an Account for their illegal Proceedings, are
 ' very busy in using every sinister Method to corrupt and suborn
 ' those Evidences which they think will make their Infamy
 ' appear to the World, soliciting them under various Pre-
 ' tences to sign Papers, in hopes that they will thereby in-
 ' validate their former Informations; coaxing and offering
 ' them Money to deny what they have sworn, or to be out of
 ' the way in the Time of Tryal, setting their Tools to work
 ' to entrap the unwary by making them Drunk, and then
 ' persuading them to say, or sign any thing. This is to caution
 ' the Friends of Mr. MITFORD, and of LIBERTY to be on
 ' their guard against these detestable and villainous proceed-
 ' ings, and it is hoped after this publick warning, that none
 ' will be so weak to sign any of their Papers without proper
 ' Advice, or hold any conversation with them, except in the
 ' presence of People of Credit, whose evidences may secure
 ' their words from vile misrepresentations, and that none will
 ' so WICKED as to receive from them the Wages of
 ' INIQUITY.

* * * A Person who makes Affidavit of the Commission
 ' of any particular Faëts, by any other Person, and by sub-
 ' sequent Affidavits, denies or contradicts what he has be-
 ' fore sworn, is liable to, and will be prosecuted for PER-
 ' JURY.

Leicester, Jan. 22. 1755.

' A Scurrilous Paper having lately been published and
 ' dispersed about this Town, asserting, ' That a Set of People,
 ' remarkable for their *Tyranny, Disloyalty, and Baseness,*
 ' finding themselves likely to be brought to an Account for
 ' their illegal Proceedings, are very busy in using every
 ' sinister Method, &c. and cautioning the Friends of Mr.
 ' MITFORD, and of Liberty, to be on their guard, &c."

' It is submitted to the Judgment of all impartial and candid
 ' Men, whether some of the Party, of the Authors of that
 ' scandalous Paper, have not been egregiously guilty of those
 ' abominable Practices, which they caution others to beware
 ' of being entrapp'd by, as its well known that some Persons
 ' who pretend to be the Friends of Mr. M—— have not only
 ' been censur'd with the base expedient of plying Persons
 ' with strong Liquors to excess, and then swearing them to

• what,

what they thought most for their wicked Purposes, but also
 Affidavit has been made thereof; whence it seems some
 filthy Sticklers for Mr. *M*——, or rather for the Indulgence
 of their own malicious Humours, are still determined to ad-
 here to their old Stratagem, of contriving and executing
 wicked Devices and charging them upon their Neighbours,
 agreeable to their NOTORIOUS DARK SCENE in 1737, the
 happy discovery of which, exhibited their feign'd Loyalty
 in its proper colours, manifesting to the World, that those
 they accused of Disloyalty were really Loyal, and *themselves*
 deceitful pretenders to Loyalty; so conscious of their own
 Defection, that they despair'd of standing in competition
 with their Opponents (even before those, of whom they had
 boastingly declared themselves to be the known Friends) till
 they had concerted and executed the vilest Schemes, and
 with unparall'd Impiety and Impudence, charged their own
 wicked Acts upon the truly Loyal, flattering themselves
 that they should thereby depreciate the Characters of those,
 who far outshined them in Integrity, and palliate their own
 Guilt, of pursuing the most Iniquitous Measures, by audaci-
 ciously slandering the Innocent: Impious Hypocrites! who
 dared with premeditation to mock GOD, and through their
 own Crimes attempt the destruction of others: But, He
 whose Eye penetrates the most latent secrets, mercifully de-
 feated the success of their *black* designs, and let no honest Man
 doubt, but the same blessed Providence will still preserve
 him from, the poisonous Darts of such *crafty Liars in*
wait.

Their Charge against others, of corrupting Persons to inva-
 lidate Evidence, does not appear with any probability, nor
 otherwise than the bare Assertions of some despicable
 Wretches, who have been, and still continue, (under the
 specious pretence of being Defenders of the Rights of the
 Freemen) assiduous in propagating their Falshoods at any
 Rate, and who, regardless of their Words or Honour, have
 solemnly and repeatedly promised and as often perfidiously re-
 tracted, merely to deceive those who scorn to be guilty of
 such double Dealing.

As to their Accusation of *Tyranny* against others, every
 Man who has been truly acquainted with the numberless Acts
 of Violence openly done, and the many Mischiefs secretly

‘ committed by their licentious Rabble ; the vile Artifices, and
 ‘ false Glosses they made use of to incense their Mobility to such
 ‘ a pitch of Virulence and Malice, may readily conclude what
 ‘ sort of *Ty ants* they are likely to be, should Power be once
 ‘ vested in their Hands.’

‘ If any Persons are so unfortunate, as to have sworn con-
 ‘ trary to the Truth, either through the urgent persuasion of
 ‘ their Friends, Inadvertency, or the effect of strong Liquor;
 ‘ is it not better that they should confess their Fault, than
 ‘ conceal it, to the Injury of those whom they have falsely
 ‘ sworn against, and so become guilty of *willful and corrupt*
 ‘ *Perjury.*’

‘ As to suborning of Witnesses, enquire of Mr. *Thomas*
 ‘ *J—*, B—r, in Leicester.’

THE Corporation of Leicester have an Estate near the Borough, called the South-Fields, which was purchased with the proper Money of the Corporation, to them and their Successors, as a Fee Simple, and then no ways subject to the Freemen, for commoning their Cattle; and if the Freemen have for many Years past enjoy'd the Benefit of commoning their Cattle there, it was purely through the Good Will and Favour of the Corporation, who, as it appears by their ancient Hall Books, at sundry Times have appointed various Rules to be observed, by and between their Tenants and the Freemen, with Penalties for their Transgressions thereof.

IN 1750 an Order of Hall was made, that the South Fields, then lying open, and chiefly occupied in Tillage, should at Lady-Day 1751 be inclosed and laid down for Grass, and so continued for 21 Years; pursuant to which Order, they were Lett upon Leases, for such Term, with a Condition amongst others, that the Tenants should every Year leave, convenient openings for the Freemen's Cattle to common, in every part of the Fields, from the first of September till Candlemas; by which Alteration

tion the Freemen have four Times more Grass Ground for their Cattle, than before: Notwithstanding which apparent Advantage on their Part, some of the old Faction, in Concert with new Associates, by false Glosses and crafty Insinuations, possess'd the weak Minds of too many of the Freemen, with strong Apprehensions, that the Corporation intended to abridge them in, or exclude them from, the Benefit of commoning their Cattle in the Fields, as formerly; deluding them by fallacious Arguments to conclude, that they had an indubitable Right of Common by Prescription; and incensing them, that then was the Time to exert themselves in defence of their Rights and Privileges; all which (as since has sufficiently appear'd) was merely with a view to raise and support an Opposition, against the then Members of Parliament for the Borough, at the next General Election; and so far they succeeded in their Schemes, that before the Fields could be wholly inclosed, some of the Freemen, with a Rabble of other loose and disorderly People, destroy'd great part of the Fences: But amongst their Violences, pulling down a House and Stable in one of the Fields, some of the most active Rioters were apprehended and committed to Prison, which induc'd the pretended Defenders of the Freemen's Rights to propose an Agreement; and accordingly was a Meeting, of some Gentlemen on the part of the Corporation and others for the Freemen, when it was mutually agreed, that the Tenants of the Corporation should admit to Bail, the Rioters then imprisoned, and bring no Act done before that Meeting in pulling down the House and Stable, or destroying any of the Fences, in Question thereafter, against any Person; and in order to have a fair Trial between the Corporation and the Freemen, with regard to the

Fences, that some of the substantial Freemen should cut down a few of the Posts and Rails of the Fencing, and the Tenants thereupon bring an Action at Law against them, in which the Freemen should join Issue : But their sly Agitators, well knowing a fair Trial would unavoidably bring to Light their deceitful Measures, consistent with their wonted Integrity, not only fail'd in the last Article of the Compromise, but to aggravate their Perfidy, by underhand and indirect Methods, promoted and carried on an Opposition, by daily (tho' as much in private as possibly they could) supplying their Mobility with strong Liquor, and encouraging them with the Infallibility of Success, if they would act with vigor, and like Men who had any Regard for their Liberties. The mischievous Effects of these plausible Insinuations of the wicked Faction to the ignorant Freemen were sensibly felt, by their committing many Outrages and Violences, as destroying more of the Fences in the Fields, roaring and raging about the Town, sometimes in the Day time, and frequently in the Night, beating at the Windows and Doors of many of the Inhabitants, with Sticks and Clubs, and threatening Revenge upon their Persons, on Account of the Fields.

DURING these riotous transactions, the restless and ever mischievous Faction, were busy in making close Application to almost every Gentleman in the County, and some in other Parts of the Kingdom, in order to procure a Candidate in their Interest, but without Success ; and at length were obliged to solicit M M-----, originally a Yorkshire Gentleman, but who has resided some few Years near Leicester, with strong Assurances of their assisting him, to defray his Expences in a contest, and not unlikely, with shew of Intimations, what extraordinary Interest they had secured, and might possibly acquire, by their g-ious

cious Contrivances and deep laid Schemes, no doubt so concerted, that whatever they had pretended or promis'd to the contrary Party, were only to stifle their Apprehensions of an Opposition, and lull them into a supine negligence ; whilst their own dear double-hearted Selves, were indefatigably endeavouring to strengthen their Interest, and be as effectually prepar'd, as possibly they could, to embrace the first Opportunity of oppoling Mr. W. and W.

It is indeed generally believed, that Mr. M----- too unwarily engaged, in the rotten Cause of an exploded Faction : But what can clear him from the Imputation, of continuing a Tool to Men, so palpably corrupt in their Principles and wicked in their Conduct, future Discoveries can only explain.

THE perfidious Juncto, having seduced Mr M---- not only to partake of their wonderful Proceedings, but also to preside at their grand Councils, for concerting Measures to execute their important Schemes ; they begun sharply to look about how to save, as decently as possible, their own Pockets, and judiciously calculating to attain the most likely Methods for that End, they unanimously agreed, that their Expences in supporting an Opposition (considering their known Loyalty) would lie unreasonably heavy upon themselves, should they treat their numerous Rabble at second Hand : and therefore determin'd, for some Time, snugly to ply them with strong Liquor, at their own Houses ; and thereby prevent his Majesty's Collector some extraordinary trouble on his Receipt, and keep their own dirty Hands from rumaging the inmost Repositories of their idoliz'd Treasure.

PRELIMINARIES being settled between Mr. M---- and his powerful Adherents, and a Plan of prodigious Operations mark'd out, the Bullies of the Faction begun like Furies to rage about the Streets,
Day

Day and Night ; knocking down and unmercifully beating many inoffensive People who spoke not one Word to them, nor gave them the least Provocation by any manner of Action ; insulting all Persons they met, who shew'd not some Indication of being pleas'd with their Clamours and Violence ; breaking Windows without Stint, so that in one Night (tho' the Morning before Proclamation had been made, by Order of the Magistrates, in every Street of the Borough forbidding all manner of violence) the Windows of above eighty Houses of the Friends of Mr. W. and W. were broke by this Banditti, besides the Mayor's, the Town Clerk's, those of the Town Hall, and the West End of St. Margaret's Church ; many Window Shutters were broke to Pieces, and large Stones above fourteen Pounds each, thrown into Houses, through the Windows, and one above thirty Pounds ; Several Houses the Mob declared they would pull down, and threaten'd the Lives of the Inhabitants ; all Lanthorns they met in the Streets, were immediately broke to Pieces by some of their Desperado's, and no Light suffer'd to be brought near their main Body. These, with many other violences, so terrified the Inhabitants, that the next Day there was almost a general Blockade of Windows, whereby the whole Town appear'd, as tho' it had suffer'd a Siege and Battery, or suddenly expected such a calamitous Event.

LONG before the last mention'd horrid Scene, Mr. W. and Mr. W. being sensible, that the Faction had employ'd all the vile Artifices and artful Misrepresentations they were capable of, to encrease the Prejudices of the Freemen, and especially with respect to the Affair of the Fields, they therefore, to appease the groundless complaints and animosities on that point, declar'd they wou'd defray the expences

of

of the Freeman against the Tenants of the Corporation in a Trial at Law, the Freeman choosing such Attornies to direct and manage the proceedings, as they thought proper, and Notice was soon after given, by public Advertisements in Print, for a meeting of the Freeman, at the Lion and Dolphin in Leicester, in order for them to appoint their Attornies, and to consider of proper Measures for conducting such Trial: But few or none of the disgusted Freeman or their Advocates coming to that Meeting, THOSE FREEMEN who did appear, agreed to join Issue in a Trial with the Corporation Tenants, hoping thereby their Disputes might be determined, or at least appear in a clearer Light than before; and accordingly they appointed Attornies to carry on such intended Trial; but the disgusted Freeman in general and their Encouragers, shewing manifest dislike of its being prosecuted, and branding it with the Names of a Sham and Mock Tryal, the carrying it on was declined; and the Rioters being again encouraged by some of the Faction, several Times after destroy'd more of the Fences, and one Night riotously and tumultuously raging about the Town, carried in a large Chair, surrounded by flaming Torches, born by some of the Rabble, one Robert Flower, Barber and Victualler, a notorious prophane Person, an adored adherent of the Faction, and so highly revered by their mobs, that he was by them stiled their Captain, and by that Name the Rioters usually did, and to this Day, distinguish him. This unhappy Wretch, in such manner, the mad multitude brought before the Door of a Justice of the Borough, where stopping for a considerable Time, they acted with incredible Rudeness, beating at his Doors so furiously, that it was concluded by some of the Spectators, they would have enter'd and ravaged the House, had

the Door given Way to their Violence ; besides which they dreadfully threaten'd the Person of the Justice, and so terrified his Wife, by assaulting the Door and uttering many horrid Imprecations, that through the Fright she was obliged to keep her Room, continued extremely ill for a Month after, and even her Life was thought to be in great Danger.

ON Saturday the 13th Mr. M----- declar'd himself a Candidate in their Interest, tho' Mr. R. G----- in his Letter to William Wright, Esq; but seven Days before, gave Assurances that there would be no Opposition : A true Copy of which Letter is under,† except some little Variation in the Spelling; and it is hoped that the waspish Gentleman will kindly excuse its present Appearance, tho' upon a former Publication thereof, he seem'd to take great Umbrage, because a Good-natur'd Gentleman had reduced it to Orthography.

NOR is it all to be doubted, but that Mr. M----- was in Terms with some of the Faction long before, for that very Purpose: and the not divulging it sooner seems to be one of the many (tho' perhaps the least mean) Artifices to deceive those in the Interest of our present worthy Representatives, of which the Circumstance of Mr. M-----'s ambiguously making Interest among the Votes in London, for himself or his Friend, is, and will remain, a glaring Instance, except Mr. M----- or some of his subtle Schemers candidly unravel the Bottom.

† TO WILLIAM WRIGHT, Esq;

" SIR,

" I understand Mr. Winstanley is making Men Free, if so,
" pray put a stop to it; why shou'd he put Mr. Wrighte to a
" needless Expence, I will assure you there will be no Opposition.

" I am Yours, &c.

April 6. 4 o'Clock.

RI. GARLE."

MONDAY the 15th, Mr. M--- with three Gentlemen in lac'd Hats and some other Persons said to be men of Substance, begun to canvass the Town, attended by a numerqus mob of People, unreasonably prejudic'd against the Corporation on Account of the Inclosure, Mr. M--- frequently encouraging them by declaring what great things he would do for them, particularly promising, to make every Freeman's right of Common worth Five-pounds a Year, if he should be chose.

THE Procession was remarkably brilliant, being accomodated with three Standards, respectively (as is said) adapted to the several Ranks of Persons attending them. The first was ornamentally display'd with a Stool, an old Shoe, a Spigot and Faucet, Blacking Pot and Brushes : Various have been the Conjectures, what the curious medley exhibited by this Standard, properly alluded to ; of all which the most natural is, that Mr. M----- meant no more by it, than complimenting his Friends with an Emblem of his sincere Intentions to serve them ; and to denote, that tho' he was a tall upright Gentleman, they might assuredly depend upon his chearfully sitting down, or stooping to, any work, even of the humblest Sort, when their Interest required it.

THE second was a Post, or a long Log of Wood, with an Ax struck into it. This (as reported) was peculiar to the men in lac'd Hats, and men reputed to be of some Substance. Such a multiplicity of Notions have circulated about this Standard, that barely to mention them would be tedious to the Reader ; and therefore the following Application seeming to carry with it some degree of Probability, may suffice : By the Post or Log with a Hatchet struck into it, seem'd to be intimated, that whenever the Posts and Rails in the Fields, are not suffi-

cient to keep up the Spirits of the mobility, they may surely depend upon the Log-----s of the substantial men, always being in readniess to supply the Defect.

THE Third and grandest of the three Standards, tho' appropriated to the mobility, was born by a Hero clad in the skin of some Beast, (not unlikely a Wolf's, with sprigs of quick Thorn in his Hat : on one side of this Standard was wrote in large Capitals, NO POST, NO RAIL a M--- for ever on the Reverse, NO GOALS, NO OPPRESSIONS, NO MOCK TRIAL, LIBERTY AND PROPERTY FOR EVER, with the scut of a Rabbet hanging at it. A Connoisseur in Drollery explains the several Mottos in the following manner, -- No Post, no Rails, says he needs no comment, -- No Goals, no Oppressions, -- is a duplicate Emblem, signifying, that tho' the Mobility have been made sensible, that for their Actions they were liable by Law to Imprisonment and Pains, they shall still look upon it, as a cruel Oppression, to be at any time interrupted, in exercising their accusom'd licentiousness. - No mock Trials, denoted their aversion, to any Restraint upon their Actions, or even their questioning them, and that they should always consider the latter, as a presumptuous censuring their courageous exploits ; and both receive and resent it, as mockage in the highest degree. -- Liberty and Property, - is a motto as frequently us'd perhaps in bad as in good Causes : but here it seem'd intended only as a declaration of the mobility, that they were determin'd to claim all such Liberties, and seize upon whosoever Properties their substantial masters at any time should inform them, they were intituled to. - The Rabbits Scut, was to shew their detestation of a certain Gentleman, who had brought some of their near Relations, [in principles]

ciples] to Justice, for attempting to engross all the Rabbits in the County, into their own Hands ; and also to declare that they would not be deter'd by him, nor any other person, from destroying all the Posts and Rails in St. Mary's Field.

TUESDAY the 16th. Mr. M--- and his Friends canvass'd again, attended with the like formalities as before ; and in the Evening his mob assaulted the Cranes Inn with uncommon Rage and Fury, broke to Pieces the whole Range of Sashes, both Glass and Frames, on the Front of the House, enter'd all the lower Rooms thro' the broken Windows, set Fire to the Furniture of two Rooms, broke a Beaufet, &c. and fired a Chimney in one of the Rooms, by throwing Gun-powder into the Fire, with other Mischief ; and Mr. M----- coming amongst the Rioters whilst they were under the Crane Windows, said, " If any " Man cries W. and W. d---n him I'll knock him " down." This was the most outrageous Assault the Rabble of the Faction or Mr. M---- committed at the Cranes ; when they exercised their Fury and malice so effectually, that the Inn was almost render'd useless for several Days after ; most of the Guests who came there, tho' formerly accustomed to the House, being obliged to go to other Inns for want of proper accommodations ; many People were intimidated from going to the House, for fear of the Mob : And the Damage sustain'd by the master of the Inn, through these wicked Destroyers, is computed at several Hundred Pounds.

It should here be observed, that by this Time, Mr. M----'s mob, notwithstanding its great Superiority before, had receiv'd additional Strength ; having been joined by many sturdy Fellows, from several neighbouring Villages, which being known by the Inhabitants of Leicester, together with the late

late mischief at the Cranes, threw them into the utmost Consternation, as it was too evident, that Mr. M---'s Town mob had always shewn surprising readiness to execute any mischief they were set upon; and there was now much Reason to fear, from their late outrageous Actions at the Cranes, after the Countrymen join'd them, that they had possess'd their new Associates, with the same Propensity to Violence and Destruction, as themselves. Dismal at this Time were the Apprehensions of most moderate men, of both Parties : Breaking of Windows, pulling down and firing of Houses, destruction of Property, were expected, and even Life itself thought in imminent danger ; and it was judg'd impracticable that the magistrates, by any methods they could devise, would be capable of restraining the raging Insolence of Mr. M---'s mob, without which it would be impossible to carry on a Poll, with Freedom and Safety to the Electors ; several of Mr. W--- and Mr. W---'s Friends having been threaten'd, that they should not be permitted to give their Votes ; and some of Mr. M---'s People giving out, that they would keep the Door, and suffer none of Mr. W--- and W---'s Friends to vote, till they had Poll'd all their own. To such a height of malice was Party Zeal grown, amongst Mr. M---'s People, that one Mr. J*** J*** the younger, pulling a large turn-down Knife out of his Pocket, and shewing it to some Persons in the Street, said, “ I bought this “ on purpose for the Election, and if any one med- “ dles with me, I'll put it into him.” and further added, that he hoped to see the Gutters in the Town Streets run down with human Blood.

HAD not Justice, strictly due to the Publick, required it on the present Occasion, no mention would have been here made, of the last Shocking Instance
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of Party Rage, purely out of regard to the R——d Gentleman, Mr. J***'s Father; who, from his great experience of the World, and extensive Knowledge of Religion, cannot but be sensible, that the best of men are not exempt from the Unhappiness of sometimes dropping a culpable Expression: Yet a Son, an only Son, exposing himself to the World in such Terms of Cruelty, cannot but deeply affect the good old Gentleman, whose moderation and Candour has been remarkably conspicuous on several publick Occasions, during his residence at Leicester.

WEDNESDAY the 17th. A Day that should always be remember'd with reverential Joy and grateful Acknowledgments to Almighty Providence, the blessed Relief of distress'd Innocency. On this memorable Day a great number of Freemen and others, Friends of Mr. W—— and W—— coming out of the Countrey into Leicester, happily chang'd the melancholy Scenes, and preserved the Inhabitants from impending Dangers, by securing them from the threatened Violences of Mr. M——'s mob.

The Election beginning on Friday the 19th, was conducted by the magistrates, with great candour, and it must be acknowledged to their Honour, by all unprejudic'd men, who saw, or have been truly inform'd of all the circumstances relative thereto, that they gave no encouragement to any person to commit violence, or by any means hinder a free Poll: but as it was their duty, us'd their utmost endeavours to procure ready access, for all the Voters; and during the whole course of the Election, lest by strictly exerting their proper Authority, they might add Fuel to the Fire, they patiently overlooked, many great and undeserv'd Indignities impudently offer'd them, and during the whole course of the Election, were more intent upon obviating any
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circumstances which might contribute to inflame the contrary Party, than in prosecuting the Interest of their own.

It is true, that frequent intimations, in Writing, were handed to Mr. M---, on the several days of Election through the Hall Windows, that his Voters were obstructed by the contrary Party, in coming up to Poll : but upon due enquiry those complaints were all found to be groundless ; whence it seems suspicious, that they were rather intended to serve some future purposes, than at that time to be any way useful to Mr. M---, and it is well known that the avenues to the place of polling, during the whole Election, were in the free possession of, and crowded with Mr. M---'s people ; and that the greatest part of those, in the Interest of Mr. W-- and Mr. W--, were station'd at a considerable distance entirely to prevent rioting ; and so far from being restrained or intimidated were the Furies of Mr. M--, that whilst the Poll was casting up, (notwithstanding so large a majority for Mr. W- and Mr. W-, as might be expected to animate their Friends, above taking affronts from the other Party, without shewing proper resentment) yet they were suffer'd to keep, full possession of the Hall-lane; tho' their Insolence was so unbounded, as repeatedly to throw into the Hall, Dogs and Cats, through the Windows, even within a small distance of the returning Officers. Upon closing the Poll the numbers were found :

For George Wrighte, Esq;	1137
James Wigley, Esq	1294
Robert Mitford, Esq	988

But notwithstanding such a large majority Mr. M. demanded a Scrutiny, which the returning Officers refusing to admit, except Mr. M. would agree to make it final ; and he not consenting thereto, Mr. W. and Mr. W. were declar'd and return'd duly elected.

R E.

O B S E R V A T I O N S.

A Little before the Election, as Mr. Thomas Halford, Attorney at Law, was going to the Mayor's, several Persons came out of Robert Flower's House, and assaulting him, struck off his Hat, and threw Stones at him, one of which hitting him, hurt him very much; and then to comfort him, threaten'd, that within a Night or two they would be reveng'd on him: And upon his returning from the Mayor's, he saw several Men standing at Flower's Door, who, as he was told, watch'd his coming back; and one Mr. Jee a Cooper, a Person of their own Party, coming up to him, humanely begg'd he would go some other way than by Flower's House, or he might expect to have some Mischief done him.

ON Wednesday the 10th of April at Night, a large Mob of People coming before the House of Mr. Halford, and outrageously breaking several of the Windows and Window-shutters; one of them named AUSTIN SHARPLESS, as the others were going away, was seiz'd by Mr. Halford and some Friends, whilst he was beating against the Window-shutters, and being taken into the House, upon his promising not to commit any further mischiefs, nor be concern'd in making any more disturbances, Mr. Halford gave him a mug of Drink, and set him at Liberty.

It has been industriously but falsely reported, that the above-mention'd Austin Sharpless, two Nights after receiv'd a shot from the firing out of Mr. Halford's House, which prov'd to be the cause of his Death; tho' it's well known the Man liv'd a long time after, and was often about the Streets with Mr. M——d's mobs, and when dead, his Body being examin'd by four Surgeons, (two of whom were Mr. M——d's Friends) they all agreed in Opinion, that his death was not occasion'd by any Gun-shot Wound, as from the following Copy of their Affidavit will appear:

WE whose Names are hereunto subscribed, have this 30th day of April 1754 made Oath before Samuel Simpson, one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the Borough of Leicester, that upon our examining the Body of Au-

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fin Sharpless, deceased, we all of us agree in Opinion that his Death was not occasion'd by any Gun-shot Wound.

JAMES OLDERSHAW,
WM. CHESHIRE
JOHN COGAN,
RD. CLAYTON,

Sworn before me in the Borough of Leicester on the 3th of April 1754,

S. SIMPSON.

And to obviate the Calumny maliciously propagated by the Faction, to stigmatize Mr. Halford on Account of his Conduct in this Affair, the subsequent Truths are presented to the Publick, On Friday Night the 12th of April, being good Friday, a large mob of People shouting and crying a M—d &c. going towards Mr. Halford's with Clubs and pick Axes, or paving Hammers, in their Hands; some of them were heard to say, that they would that Night have Mr. Halford's blood, and pull down his House; and coming before it violently attack'd and broke several of the Window Shutters; upon which Mr. Halford calling to and telling them, if they would not desist from their Violences, he would fire upon them: But they continuing the Assault, to deter them, a Gun was fired into the Air, which so little intimidated them, that their Shouting increased, and they attack'd the Windows and Shutters more violently, broke four Pannels of the Hall Door, and one of the Mob getting Part of his Body through a Breach of the Door, took hold of the Lock Bolt, and endeavoured to draw it back, with an Intent, as was supposed, to get the Door open, for the Mob to enter the House; but was prevented by the Firing. The Mob still continuing outrageous, Mr. Halford and some of his Assistants endeavoured to keep them off, by now and then firing amongst them with Bird Shot, when they thought it a proper Time; which firing was chiefly through the Breaches made in the Hall Door by the Mob, who, at length finding too warm a Reception, drew off, and attempted to get in the back Way, but were intimidated by a Gun being discharg'd at them out of the Garden; yet the Windows in the back Part of the House, were broke by some of the same Mob that Night. A Reputable Neighbour of Mr Halford's has declared, that after the

the first firing of a Gun, the Mob giving a great Shout, cry'd, *D—mn you Halford, we'll die hard; shoot again, for we'll have your Blood and put down your House before Morning*; and that when Mr. Halford was urgently pressed by his Friends to load his Guns with large Shot, he heard him say, *It would give him so much Concern to hurt any Boy, that he should never be ea'y so long as he liv'd.*

On Saturday the 14th of April a Servant of Mr Hamlet Clark's, then Town Chamberlain, telling his Master that he heard some of Mr. M——'s Mob say, *White Hat deserted to come down, and it's Neighbour's too*; meaning (as he supposed) the Houses of Mr. Thomas Hurit and his said Master, who were opposite Neighbours.

Mr. Clarke hearing this, and having lately had his Windows and Window-shutters broke, and damag'd, to the amount of 3 l. 10s and upwards, and Mr. Halford's House having been so terribly assaulted the Night before; considering the cruelty of the Mob, and the little probability that appeared of restraining them in their excesses, and having a Wife, eight Children, and effects to a considerable Value in his House, terrified with dreadful Apprehensions, that his House would inevitably be pulled down, his Family suffer violence, and all his effects be destroy'd, in the pannick went that day to Mr. M——d, and contrary to his Inclination, promised him his Vote, with a view to prevent the sad consequences he expected from the Resentment and cruel Malice of Mr. M——d's mob, which had the desir'd effect, he having no mischief afterwards done to him or his House.

WEDNESDAY April 17th, a large Mob of People, amongst whom were a great number of Colliers, parading the Streets, and passing by the new Warehouse of Mr. Richard Garle, Hosier, were assaulted with large Stones and Bricks, thrown at them out of the Windows, by which being greatly incensed, they broke part of the small Frame-work of the Sashes, at that Time unglazed, enter'd the Warehouse, and did some Damage within; and thence passing by the Dwelling-House, Stones and Bricks being thrown at them, by several Persons from the Roof, so irritated them, that they forced through the Gates, and entering the House, began to commit Violences: But Nathaniel Wrighte, Esq; who was then in another Part of the Town, being informed of their mis-

mischievous Proceedings, immediately went to Mr. G——'s, and with many pressing Entreaties and urgent Pertuations, prevail'd upon them to desist ; for which kind Office, the *great*, the *generous* Mr. G——, has commenc'd a Prosecution against Mr. Wrighte, in the King's Bench ; tho' his Highness, doing the like Good-natured Act when Mr. Halford's House was assaulted, and threaten'd to be pull'd down by Mr. M——'s Mob, has been more fortunate, being, for that Generosity, only expos'd to the Censure of those, who have hitherto abhorr'd, and it's hoped will always detest, the Thoughts of perverting the good Actions of others, tho' their declared Enemies, to any malicious Purposes ; notwithstanding the *shining* Example of his Eminency, who, by Fortune, acquiring Interest, has render'd himself *respectable* to his inferiors, by *courage* and *resolution* has trampled upon his equals, and by his *intrepidity* and *greatness* of Mind, even *da'rd* his Superiors, and *fearless* of the boldest Enterprize, openly declar'd to *those* who have contradicted or contended with his Mightiness, that their presumption would be *fatal*, of no less consequence then inevitable ruin, without any hopes of the *least* redeeming Salvo ; all which well consider'd, how stupid ? how rash and inconsiderate are those, who attempt to oppose a Man so potent, superb and resolute in his own Mind, that rather than suffer the Execution of his own Will to be neglected or disputed, seems determined, at all Events, by the excessive Burden of his *Greatness* to suppress all Opponents ; or how notoriously presumptuous will it be, for any Man of competent Sense to attempt obstructing his *Tyranny*, when it must consequently be attended with the *highest Resentment* and *severest Chastisement* of his *Excellency* ; whose Authority and Command were so surprizingly *influential* that when in the street assuming a stern look, and saying with a rough Accent, seemingly the effect of his displeasure, *My Lads raise the Norib* ; within 10 Hours after such declaration the whole Force of that Quarter were not only in Arms but engag'd in Action, for the cause of his Highness.

ON Wednesday the 10th of April, the Colliers with others having pass'd by *Ilwer's* House, some Townsmen who follow'd them, were assaulted with Stones, Brick-bats, Sticks, and other things thrown at them, out of the Garret Windows, upon which some of those assaulted, giving the Colliers

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Intelligence, they immediately return'd to Flowers, and did some damage to the Windows : The same day at Night passing again by Flower's House then crouded by Mr. M—d's people, and also a number of them being at the Door in the street, shouting, exulting, and vehemently crying, a M—d, &c. till the Colliers with others, came up to them, being even so daring, as to mix and continue amongst them a considerable time ; at length the Colliers exasperated, either by their insolent Behaviour, or out of further Revenge, for the Affronts their Friends had before received, broke the Windows a second time, enter'd the House and committed some violences ; to which may here be added, that a few Days before the Election, Flower coming out of his Dwelling-House, said D—n it, my Windows shall be broke as well other Peoples, and if nobody will break them, I will break them myself, and thereupon with a large hook stick, then in his hand, immediately broke them.

It may perhaps here be expected, that to gratify the Curiosity of some Persons, an elaborate Character should have been attempted, of that extraordinary Person *Robert Flower*, commonly called *Capt. Flower* ; but as such a Subject would (rather than answering any Utility) be mispending the Reader's Time; for Brevity's Sake, the following Sarcastic of a waggish Gentleman is only inserted : “ *Mr. Robert Flower*, Barber and Victualler, a Freeman of the Borough of Leicester, has been by the Faction there, esteem'd their principal Chirurgical Instrument, as being Case-harden'd, and within an Inch of the Stealing all of Brasses, except a large Nob at the Top heavily loaded with Lead, for facilitating Operations where deep Incisions are required.

THURSDAY the 17th of April three Colliers coming up Red-Cross-Street, towards the Peacock, were attack'd by William Johnson, alias Running Johnson, Joseph Brooks, William Flower and others, who taking their Sticks out of their Hands, two of them run away ; but the other not being so fortunate, they all fell upon him in the most barbarous and cruel manner, beating him incessantly till he seemed to be dead, and then drawing him up to a House Side, laid, and left him under a Window Shutter.

Monday April 8th, Mr. G——e, Mr. J——e, and Mr. P——k, attended by a Party of their Mob, taking some of
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Mr. M——d's Friends to be made Free, and coming to the Mayor's Door, he being in the Parlour with a great Number of Mr. M——d's Friends, who also came there in order to be made Free, and some People being in the Entry whom Mr. J— and his Friends thought would impede their Entrance, Mr. J—e said, D—n 'em pull them out, one at a Time, and accordingly Mr. G—e took a Man by the Collar, and endeavouring to pull him out, tore his Shirt; and Mr. J—e laying hold on another Person in order to haul him away, tore his Coat, and then one of them call'd out for the Constable to clear the Entry; and Mr. P—k standing amongst some of his own Friends who came with him complain'd, there was such a great Stink that he could not stay; and immediately left them. Mr. J—e then shoving with his Shoulder and Mr. G—le thrusting with his Hands against the Parlor Door, forced it open, and enter'd the Room; whereat the Mayor being displeased, ask'd them what Business they had there? to which Mr. J—e *modestly* reply'd, as much Business as you have.

ON Wednesday the 10th of April between 9 and 10 at Night, a large Mob of People came before the Mayor's House, some of whom, violently thrusting Sticks or Clubs thro' the Light holes of the Window Shutters, so broke the Glass of the Windows, that it flew several Yards into the Room, and some near the Chimney, where the Mayor was then sitting with a Friend: And about 11 o'Clock the same Night, whilst the Mayor's Servant was warming his Bed in the Chamber, several large Brick-Bats and Stones were thrown in at the Windows, out of the Street, by a Mob of People shouting a M——d, &c. with such Force, that they entirely demolished both Glass and Lead, except a few Panes; several of the Stones hit against the Curtains of the Bed, others fell by the Bedside, some went under the Bed, and others were thrown in with such Violence as to fly beyond it.

ON Wednesday the 10th of April the Colliers and others having passed by the House of *Joseph Haddon*, Victualler; some Boys followed them at a considerable distance, and coming overagainst *Haddon's*, and crying W— and W—, some of them were seiz'd by Mr. M——d's people, who forcibly took them into the House, and there detain'd and also very much beat them, of which the Mob being inform'd by some
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of the other Boys ; returned to Haddon's and did damage there.

Much causeless clamour has been made by the Friends of Mr. M——d, especially the Faction, about the Colliers assisting the Friends of Mr. W——te, and Mr. W——y ; tho' it's undeniable, that during the whole Election ; their Behaviour was quiet and peaceable, and as their Instructions were, to prevent any Mischief being done in the Town, and to protect the Electors, in a Free and fair Poll, they accordingly acted with such caution and prudence, as not only answer'd those intended ends, but by their surprizing regularity, even captivated the Admiration of the Inhabitants, and whatever the Friends of Mr. M——d, may maliciously object against them, it must and will be believed, that by their seasonable Assistance, with that of other Friends out of the Country, the Properties, Limbs and also Lives, of many Inhabitants of Leicester were preserv'd : For before their coming to Town, Mr. M——d's Rabble were arriv'd at such a height of Insolence and Wickedness, that none of Mr. W—— and Mr. W——'s Friends could walk the Streets, without being dangerously exposed to their Resentment ; nor for ten Days together could any Person in their hearing, with Assurance of Safety, mention the Names of Mr. W—— and Mr. W—— with Respect, many being daily knock'd down, merely on that Account ; and four of Mr. W——te's Servants standing together in the Street, without speaking a single Word, or any way giving the least Provocation to those cruel Barbarians, were all, by them, unmercifully beat and abused only for wearing their Master's Liveries. And these Riotous Desperado's being encouraged in their Spirit of Rudeness by the Faction, not only shew'd no Respect to the Magistrates, but daily and openly insulted them, neither could they appear in the Streets, without being by them reviled with opprobrious Words, nor were their utmost Endeavours to restrain them in their violent Excesses, of the least Availment.

THE publication of this Pamphlet, is chiefly intended to vindicate the innocent and injur'd, from the malicious aspersions and daring Impudence of a deluded and deluding Faction, who to gratify their own peccant Humours, have wickedly and willfully diunited the common ties of Humanity, and with indefatigable Industry obstructed the mutual Intercourse of
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Christian Benevolence and Beneficence, amongst the Inhabitants of so considerable a Town as *Leicester*, which is computed to consist of no less than 2000 Families.

WHAT such Miscreants could propose to themselves, beyond the utmost Indulgence of Ambition, and most extensive Gratification of their insatiable Thirst for Power, is dreadful to think of: As Professors of Christianity, they could surely expect no Assistance or Protection from the Fountain of Goodness, in their Prosecution of Measures so directly opposite thereto; except a fatal Permission further to exceed in sinful extravagancies, that their Punishments may be more heavy at the Great Day of Retributions, unless they sincerely repent, and cordially reform.

To stigmatize the Friends of Mr. M——d in general, is far from the present Intention, the Faction, who have been the main Springs of the whole Machinery of deep Diffimulation, and the Promoters of such horrible Violences and Insultations, should be, and are charged with the monstrous Load of Guilt; for in the present Case it would be unreasonable to condemn all for the Crimes of a few, who have with constant and unwearyed Application, artfully disguised the true Scope of their Intentions and Actions, equally to their known Friends, and supposed Enemies; that the former might conclude, they simply intended the Advancement of their common Cause, and the latter believe, they expected no more from them, than they had speciously pretended to, and with some shew of Equity required.

If the Faction are displeased, or shew any resentment at the Appearance of the foregoing Sheets, let them know, that some of their own Friends, who would be thought moderate Men, have twice by their Agents, in a manner, courted the Author to answer for himself: For which friendly Indulgence of theirs, this Pamphlet is a small Testimony, but sure Earnest, of his readiness to obey their Citations; and their further mild and winning Treatment of his Person, may perhaps incline him to be more explicit and copious in his Replies.

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